Archeological Survey

The New Sulphur Springs Road Tract
129 Acres
San Antonio, Texas

September 19, 2005

FGS Control # FGS-05252

Prepared exclusively for

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2005 SEP 26 P 1:42
SERVICES

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Restricted Cultural Information

According to the Texas Administrative Code: TITLE 13: CULTURAL RESOURCES, PART 2, TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION, CHAPTER 24, RESTRICTED CULTURAL RESOURCE INFORMATION, RULE §24.3 Scope: "The intent of these rules is to restrict access to specific cultural resource data to those individuals that have a legitimate scientific or legal interest in obtaining and using that information. The intent is not to limit the public's use of all information that the commission has within its libraries, files, documents, and the THSA database; however, as provided for in §442.007(f) of the Texas Government Code, and §191.004(a-c) of the Texas Natural Resources Code, the commission can determine what cultural resource information is sensitive and what information needs to be restricted due to potential dangers to those resources. The cultural resources that the commission considers to be at risk include archeological sites, shipwrecks, certain historic structures and engineering features. Public disclosure of any information relating to the location or character of these resources would increase their risk of harm, theft or destruction. Therefore, this information is defined as restricted and is not subject to public disclosure under state law. Restrictions on who can obtain data and how the data are used is within the legal authority of the commission, and can be defined through the rule-making authority of the commission."

As a result, it must be noted that the information contained within this report cannot be made available to the general public and additional copies of this report and the attached maps are not permissible without the written consent of Frost GeoSciences, inc. and Abasolo Archeological Consultants.

Site Location

The area of investigation consists of 129 acres of undeveloped land located along and north of New Sulphur Springs Road approximately 1,200 feet west of the intersection of New Sulphur Springs Road and Foster Road in San Antonio, Texas. An overall view of the area is shown on a copy of the proposed land plan, a local street map, a USGS Topographic Map, a geologic map, a 1938 aerial photograph, a 1962 aerial photograph from the U.S.D.A. Soil Survey of Bexar County, Texas, and a 2003 aerial photograph. Copies of the above mentioned maps indicating the location of the project area are presented on Plates 1 through 7 in Appendix A.

Geologic Map Review

Geologic formations capable of being a source bed for flint/chert make favorable sites for prehistoric and historic cultures. These same formations will produce flint/chert gravels within streambeds that drain the areas covered by the formations. Caves and cliff overhangs would have the potential to provide shelter for prehistoric and historic nomadic hunting tribes. Some areas with the potential for vertical caves can make suitable mortuary depositories for the dead dating back as much as ca. 8,000 years. The caves will be primarily restricted to areas with carbonate strata such as limestones and chalk formations.

According to the Bureau of Economic Geology, Geologic Atlas of Texas, San Antonio Sheet, the project area is located on the Quaternary Leona Formation (Qle), and the Eocene Wilcox Group (Ewi).

The Leona Formation consists of fine calcareous clay, silt, and sand grading down into course gravel. Overall thickness ranges from 40 to 60 feet.

The Wilcox Group consists of mudstone with various amounts of sandstone, lignite, ironstone concretions, and is commonly glauconitic. The mudstone in the upper part is massive to thin-bedded pale brown to yellowish brown with silt and very fine sand laminae. This weathers yellowish brown. The mudstone in the lower part is medium to dark gray and weathers yellowish gray. The sandstone in the upper part is light gray to pale yellow, mostly medium to fine grained,

moderately well sorted, crossbedded, lenticular and ranged from 5 to 30 feet thick. The sandstone in the lower part is yellowish brown to moderate brown, very fine grained, well sorted, in part argillaceous, locally burrowed, crossbedded, and range from a few inches to 10 feet thick. Lignite is brownish black and occurs near the middle with seams 1 to 20 feet thick. Overall thickness of the Wilcox Formation is about 1250 feet.

A copy of the Bureau of Economic Geology, Geologic Atlas of Texas, San Antonio Sheet indicating the location of the project area and the outcrop pattern of the geologic formations is included in this report on Plate 4 in Appendix A.

Historic Aerial Photography

Historic aerial photography from 1938 indicates that several structures (NSR 1A & NSR 1B). The historic structures noted in this report (NSR 1A & NSR 1B) are visible in 1938 and remain visible to the present day. A copy of the 1938 aerial photograph from the Agricultural Stabilization & Conservation Service (ASCS) is included on Plate 5 in Appendix A. A copy of the 2003 aerial photograph is included on Plate 7 in Appendix A.

U.S.D.A. Soil Survey Review

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Soil Survey of Bexar County, Texas (1966), the New Sulphur Springs Road Tract is located on the San Antonio Clay Loam (SaB), the Webb Fine Sandy Loam (WbC), the Duval Fine Sandy Loam (DnB), and the Trinity & Frio Soils Frequently Flooded (Tf).

The San Antonio Clay Loam consists of deep, moderately dark colored, nearly level and undulating soils on the uplands. These soils occur in the eastern and southern portions of the county. The surface layer is dark brown, noncalcareous clay loam and is about 8 inches thick. It has weak, subangular blocky structure. This layer can be easily worked if moisture conditions are favorable. The subsoil is noncalcareous, brown or dark reddish brown, about 20 inches thick, and more clayey in the upper part than in the lower part. The upper part is clay and has

moderate, medium, blocky structure. The lower part is reddish brown or brown light clay or heavy sandy clay and has weak, blocky structure. The underlying material is light yellowish brown or pale brown clay loam interbedded with sandstone. It contains large lumps of limy material and weathered fragments of sandstone. This soil has slow surface drainage and very slow internal drainage. Permeability is very slow. Water erosion is a hazard.

The Webb Fine Sandy Loam consists of sandy loam that is moderately deep, moderately dark colored, and nearly level to gently sloping. These soils are in the southern third of the county. Typically, the surface layer is reddish brown, noncalcareous, and about 12 inches thick. It has weak, fine, granular structure and is friable when moist and hard when dry. The subsoil, about 16 inches thick, is reddish brown sandy clay. It has moderate, medium, blocky structure, is firm or very firm when moist, and is hard to extremely hard when dry. This layer is ordinarily noncalcareous, but locally there are a few lime concretions in the lower part. The underlying material consists of yellowish-red to yellow sandy clay interbedded with weakly consolidated sandstone. The Webb Fine Sandy Loam is naturally well drained. Internal drainage is slow. Permeability is slow. Water erosion is a hazard.

The Duval Fine Sandy Loam consists of sandy upland soils that are deep, reddish, and nearly level to moderately sloping. These soils developed over calcareous sandy material and soft sandstone. They occur in the southeastern and southern portions of the county. The surface layer is brown to reddish brown, slightly acid fine sandy loam or loamy fine sand and is about 14 inches thick. It has weak, granular structure, is friable when moist, and is easily worked. The subsoil is yellowish red, slightly acid sandy clay loam and is about 40 inches thick. It contains more clay than the surface layer. This layer has weak, coarse, prismatic structure and is friable when moist. The underlying material is very pale brown, slightly acid loam mixed with weakly consolidated sandstone. This material is massive and porous and is friable when moist. It extends to a depth of several feet. This soil is moderately well drained or well drained. Internal drainage is medium or rapid. Water erosion and wind erosion is a hazard.

The Trinity and Frio Soils, Frequently Flooded occur as narrow, long and irregularly shaped areas on the flood plains of small streams and the larger field drainageways. They are mostly in the northern and central parts of the county. These soils are flooded at least once a year, generally after a heavy rain. Some areas are subject to a thin deposition of sediments, and others to scouring or shifting. Channels in these areas are poorly defined and of small capacity. The surface layer ranges from clay loam to gravelly clay in texture. The subsurface layer is clay, but in places it contains thin loamy strata. These soils support a heavy cover of vegetation, which generally consists of elm, hackberry, oak, huisache, mesquite, and other thorny shrubs.

A copy of the 1962 Aerial Photograph from the U.S.D.A. Soil Survey of Bexar County, Texas (1966) indicating the location of the New Sulphur Springs Road Tract Subdivision and the soil types is included in this report on Plate 6 in Appendix A.

Abstract

Abasolo Archaeological Consultants and Frost GeoSciences, Inc. conducted an archeological survey of the 129-acre New Sulfur Springs Road Tract (Fig. 1 in Appendix B). The assessment was carried out in order to evaluate the significance of any historic or prehistoric sites regarding consideration for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The two wooden structures and the barn were given a preliminary site number, NSR 1. In addition, evidence of prehistoric quarrying and lithic resource procurement was observed, but no concentrations that merit archaeological site designation were found. None of the historical or archaeological resources merit further investigations, and no further work is recommended.

Introduction

Abasolo Archaeological Consultants (AAC) and Frost GeoSciences, Inc. conducted an archeological survey of the 129-acre New Sulfur Springs Road Tract (Fig. 1 in Appendix B). The assessment was carried out in order to evaluate the significance of any historic or prehistoric sites

regarding consideration for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

The fieldwork consisted of an intensive surface inspection of all sections of the property. Two early-mid 20th century house structures and an associated barn were recorded on the property. In addition, three mobile homes, one abandoned and two in the process of being vacated, were also on the property. The two wooden structures were given a preliminary site number, NSR 1. In addition, evidence of prehistoric quarrying and lithic resource procurement was observed, but no concentrations that merit archaeological site designation were found. The geomorphic conditions were not conducive to soil accumulation except along the creek's floodplain, and hydrologic conditions with a lack of permanent water also did not favor repeated or sustained campsite conditions.

A "no collecting" policy was followed during the survey and testing. No diagnostic artifacts were encountered although numerous tested chert cobbles, several cores and flakes were observed. Two early stage bifaces, evidence for prehistoric quarry activity, and both were photographed (Fig. 4 in Appendix B).

Background

The New Sulfur Springs Tract is within the Eckert Oil Field. Several small pumps are currently operating and a tank battery used for storing and treating oil is present. The upland soils (soil data are derived from Taylor et al. 1991) are dominated by San Antonio clay loam (SaB) (Fig. 2 in Appendix B). The soils were very shallow, highly eroded, often to exposed sandstone bedrock, and the surface littered in places with Uvalde gravel chert nodules, hematite nodules, and sandstone. The latter included some major outcrops of large slabs. The slopes consist of Webb fine sandy loam soils (WbC), and these, too, were highly eroded. Uvalde Gravel lithics and those from Wilcox formation littered the slopes toward the drainages (Fig. 3 in Appendix B). Duval fine sandy loam (DnB), another shallow sandy soil, occurs in the northeast corner of the tract, and Trinity and Frio soils occur along the creeks floodplain. Efforts to cultivate the upland and slopes were seen in the abandoned fields and plow marks on exposed sandstone bedrock.

Two creeks drain the property; both are intermittent third-order upland tributaries of Calaveras Creek, and neither contains springs or permanent water that might otherwise provide magnets for prehistoric campsite activity.

Archaeological Background

The nature of historic and prehistoric cultural resources in southern Bexar County is poorly known (Shafer and Hester 2005), especially when compared to intensive studies done across large parts of northern San Antonio. However, its archaeological record fits into the regional cultural framework extending back at least 11,200 years (e.g., Hester 2004). The first occupations occurred in the Paleoindian period during the last part of the Pleistocene, indicated by the occurrence of scattered Clovis and Folsom spear points. Groups were likely small and highly mobile. Clovis peoples (9200 B.C.) hunted Ice Age mammals, such as mammoth, and the later Folsom bands (8800 B.C.) emphasized large, extinct species of bison (buffalo). As modern environments began to emerge around 10,000 years ago, Paleoindian peoples were more numerous, and there is widespread evidence of occupation throughout the region. The hunting and gathering patterns of this early time frame, involving modern species of animals and plants, began to be intensified by 8,000 B.C., leading to the development of Archaic cultures. This way of life lasted for thousands of years, reflected by regional specialization and locally distinctive types of projectile points, scrapers, and other stone tools. It was not until about 500 A.D. that changes in this long-lived tradition began to change. The introduction of the bow and arrow marked the beginning of the Late Prehistoric period. For over 10,000 years, the ancient hunters had used the spear and spear-thrower as their main weapon, and this began to be replaced by the bow and arrow around 2000 years ago. The most distinctive archaeological indicator is the presence of tiny arrow points, and later, around A.D. 1300, the intensified hunting of buffalo. With the arrival of the Spanish in the region in the late 17th century, the native peoples of the Historic period began to go into the missions. The raids of invading Lipan Apache bands spurred

this transition. In the area around the New Sulfur Springs Road Tract, few archaeological sites have been documented. Paul Maslyk recorded site 41BX1054 during a right-of-way survey for the widening of New Sulfur Springs Road. This site is between the present project area and Boldtville. Shovel tests in 1994 revealed a few flint flakes, a core, and a dart point fragment that Maslyk suggests is Late Archaic (data from Texas Archeological Site Atlas). Further east, near New Sulfur Springs Road, is site 41BX2. Known as the "Stanfield Dairy Site," it was very briefly reported by Mardith Schuetz as part of the 1972 San Antonio Historic Survey. Unfortunately, aside from its name and its location, nothing else is known about the site. To the southeast, in the Calaveras Creek/Calaveras Lake area, there is a large cluster of sites resulting from various surveys done for City Public Service (CPS). Many are described as "lithic scatters" (cf. Brown and Jones 1988).

Southwest of the New Sulfur Springs project locality is Rosillo Creek, and the probable location of the Battle of Rosillo Creek in 1813 (summarized by Cox 1990). Also to the southwest is site 41BX596, recorded by a 1983 survey related to the San Antonio 201 Wastewater Treatment Project of the late 1970s (Fox 1977). What little cultural material was found indicates that this site, too, is a lithic procurement/"lithic scatter" area. The most significant site is nearby, on the east bank of Salado Creek. 41BX176 is a probable prehistoric cemetery site recorded in 1972 by Anne A. Fox. Commercial earth-mining exposed at least three burials and 2 Scallorn points. No scientific excavation was carried out. Based on these meager data, 41BX176 may well fit into the pattern of burials and burial sites of the early part of the Late Prehistoric (Austin Phase; ca. A.D. 700-1100) found in central and south Texas (e.g., Perttula 2001:52; Hester et al. 1993).

In sum, most sites found in the project area typically have no diagnostic or time-sensitive artifacts and cannot be dated to any of the periods outlined above. This may be due to local artifact-collecting over the decades, or simply the result of site function – lithic procurement, short terms camps and hunting/gathering activities that left few artifacts.

Lithic procurement is by far the most common prehistoric activity that we have seen. Exposures of Uvalde gravels were selected by ancient stone-workers, to be "tested" (to see if the flint was

suitable for chipping), and occasional large flakes were struck from the cobbles for use in making projectile points, knives and other needed implements. As at the New Sulfur Spring Road project area, the debris from these activities is widely scattered.

Survey Results

The survey was carried out on foot by Harry Shafer, Tom Hester, Steve Frost, and John Frost. The survey was conducted by doing transect sweeps across each of the landforms and concentrating on areas with moderate to good surface exposure. Erosion features and feral hog disturbances provided moderate to good visibility over the upland surface and immediate slopes. Feral hogs infest the area, and evidence of their grubbing was seen over virtually the entire property. The hog grubbing turned up the soil in both grassy and wooded areas, providing excellent views of subsurface conditions. Dense grass covered portions of the uplands but frequent hog disturbances allowed both surface and subsurface inspection of these areas. The most difficult and challenging sections were the heavily wooded southern and southeastern sections of the property. Dense thorny vegetation made this area virtually impassable in places. Despite this handicap, no evidence of concentrated cultural material was observed, and enough exposures were examined to confidently determine that intact archaeological deposits were highly unlikely to occur. Soils also are sandy and very shallow along the banks above the creeks' floodplains, making this area, and indeed the entire property, a low-probability area for intact prehistoric archaeological deposits that might have contextual integrity.

The survey did show evidence of intermittent landscape use prehistorically for lithic resource procurement. Geomorphic conditions in the form of naturally shallow sandy soils and historic agricultural use have lead to extensive erosion of the uplands and a re-deposition of the deposits on the slopes and in the creeks floodplains. The archaeological evidence of prehistoric landscape use was in the form of resource procurement. Chert cobbles in the form of Uvalde gravels were periodically exploited by passing hunters and gatherers. Numerous chert (flint) nodules were found tested and some partly reduced for flakes or shaped into biface blanks (Fig. 4 in Appendix B). Areas of the property in which this activity was observed is shown in Figure 3 in Appendix B.

Two historic wooden houses and a barn are on the property, the architecture of both suggest a date to either the late early half to mid 20th century (ca. 1930s-1950s). Both are pier and beam construction with posts and concrete block supports with metal roofs. One structure (NSR 1A) is mostly intact (Figs. 5, 6 in Appendix B). The house is a quaint four room, probably kit-built home, with two brick columns flanking the entrance to the front porch. This structure is currently being used for storage, and is in reasonably good shape. In fact, it appears that the contents of the house, furniture, dishes, and other belongings, were packed up for moving, but have been stored here for quite some time.

The second structure (NSR 1B), about 100 feet west of A, has been partly disassembled for lumber recycling (Fig. 7, 8 in Appendix B). It is larger than 1A, containing at least five and probably six rooms, and has a brick chimney in back. The protected interior also is being used for storage. The house does not appear to be salvageable.

Southeast of NSR 1A is a dilapidated wooden barn that contains stored items (Fig. 9 in Appendix B). On appearance, the contents of the barn have not been packed or prepared for removal.

Summary and Recommendations

An archaeological survey of the New Sulfur Road development recorded two historic wooden house structures and a barn (Site NSR 1) and evidence of prehistoric landscape use in the form of chert resource exploitation. No prehistoric sites were recorded within the property. The absence of the latter is contributed to upland geomorphic conditions that do not favor intact deposits to be preserved and to an absence of permanent water. The creeks are third-order upland tributaries of Calaveras Creek and no springs or permanent water occurs on the property.

Since both houses at NSR 1 are vintage structures it is important to document their presence. One of the historic house structures (NSR 1A) may be salvageable by removing it from the property and relocating it elsewhere. Structure NSR 1B is already in the process of being dismantled, probably for recycling the lumber. The barn is not in a good state of repair. We are not recommending salvage of structure NSR 1A, but are only suggesting the possibility.

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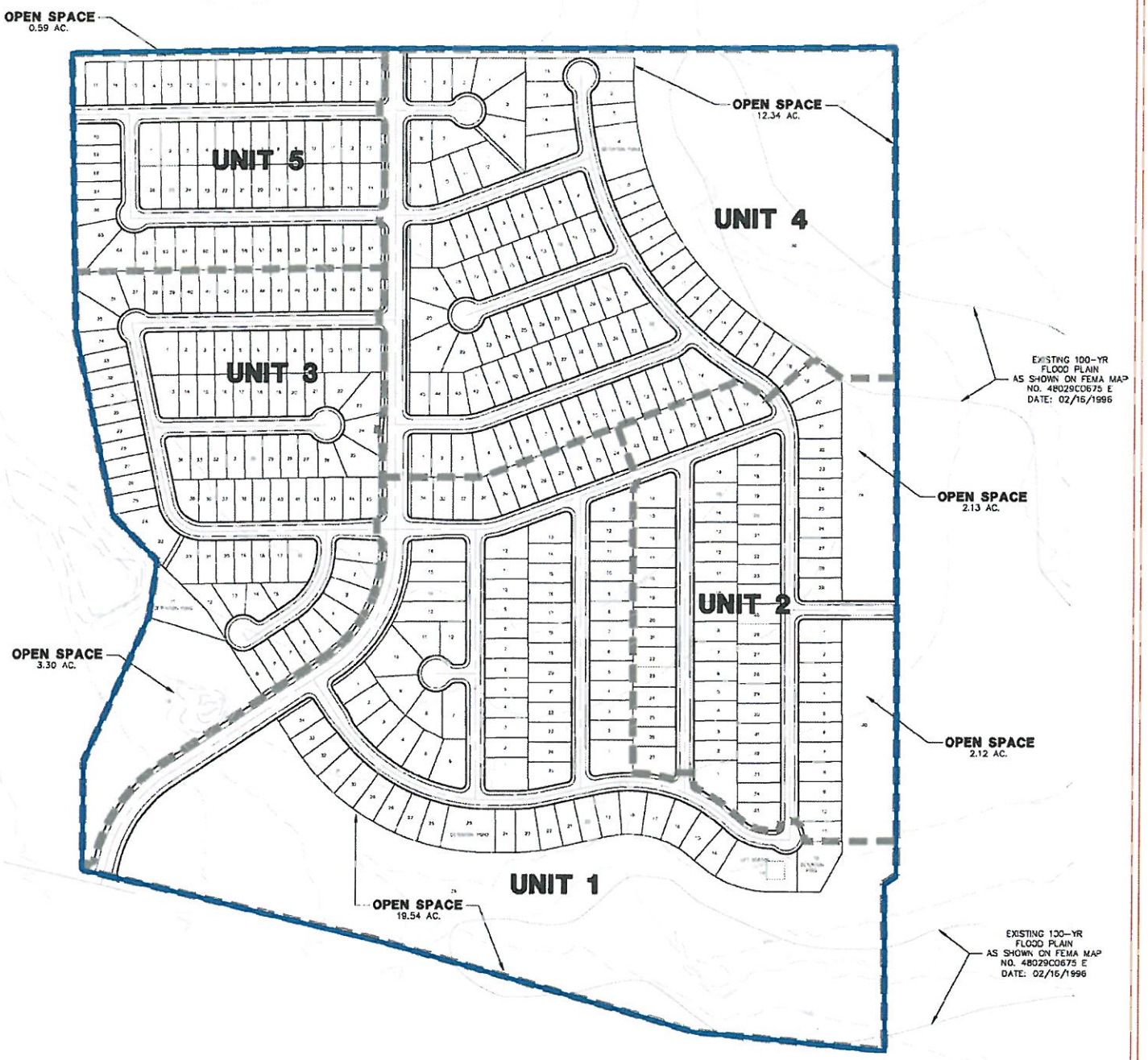


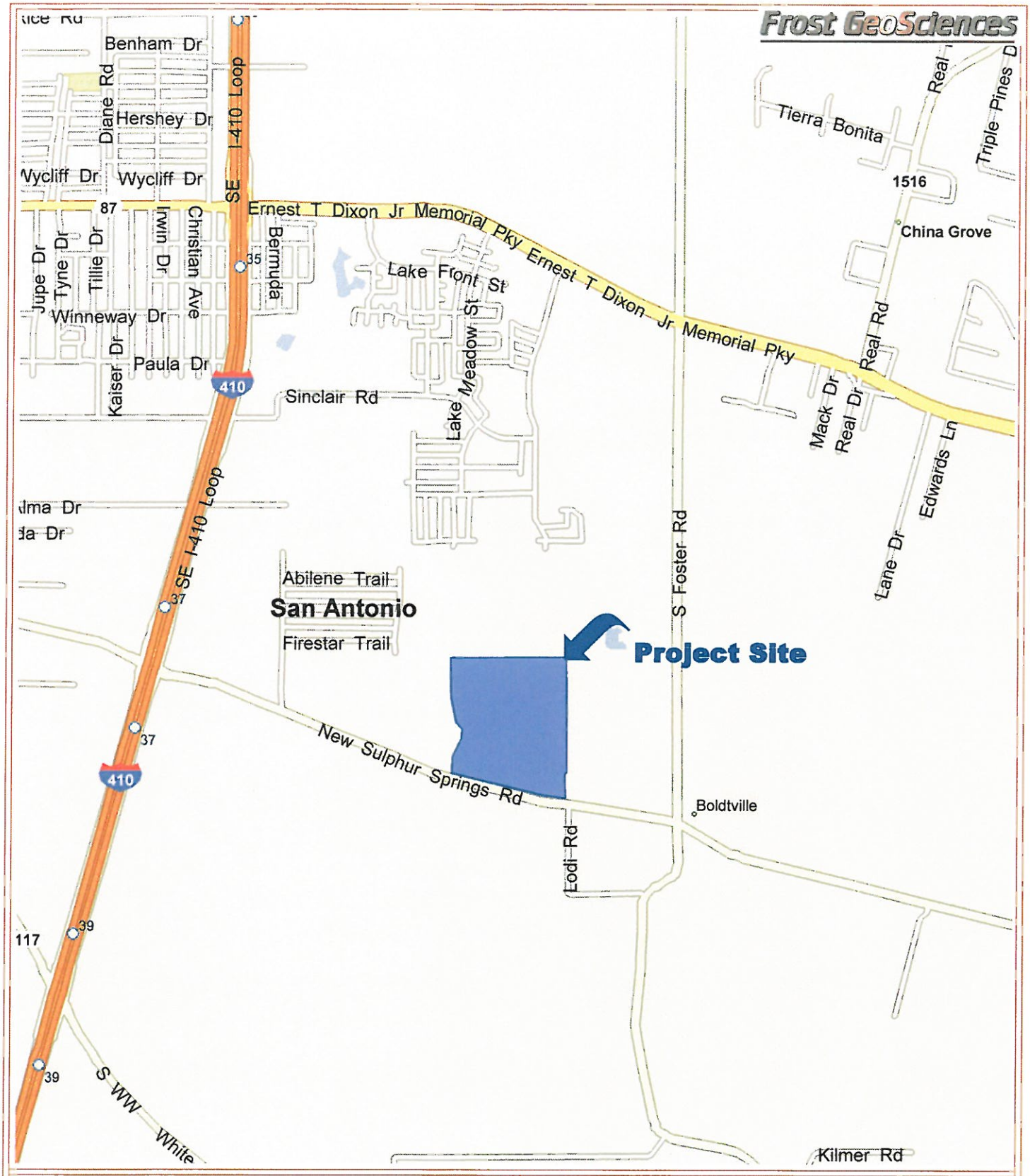
PROJECT NAME:

Archeological Survey
The New Sulphur Springs Road Tract
129 Acres
San Antonio, Texas

Site Plan

PROJECT NO.: FGS-05252

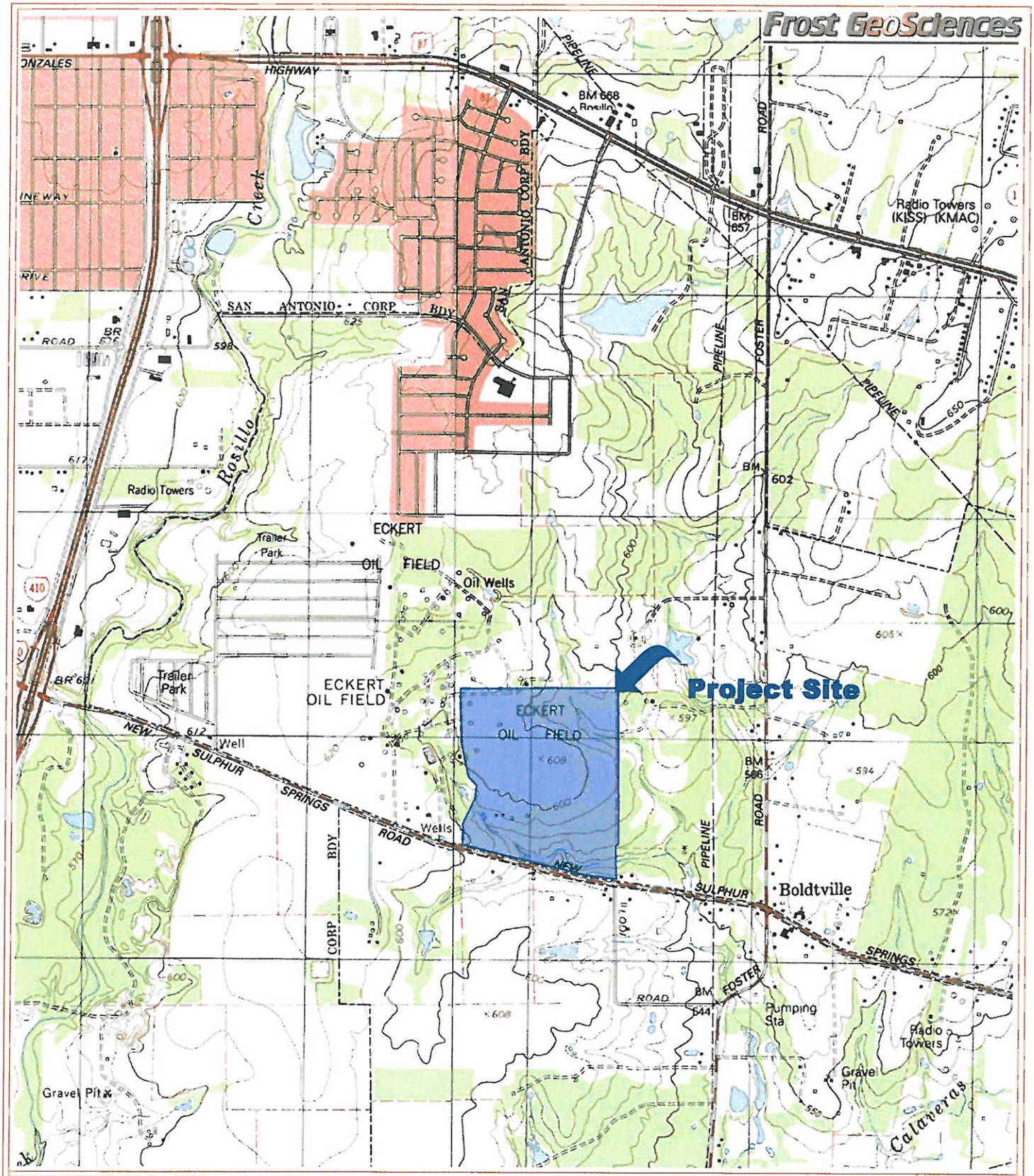
DATE: September 19, 2005



PROJECT NAME:	Street Map	
Archeological Survey The New Sulphur Springs Road Tract 129 Acres San Antonio, Texas	PROJECT NO.: FGS-05252	DATE: September 19, 2005

Geologic and Environmental Consulting

PLATE NO. 2

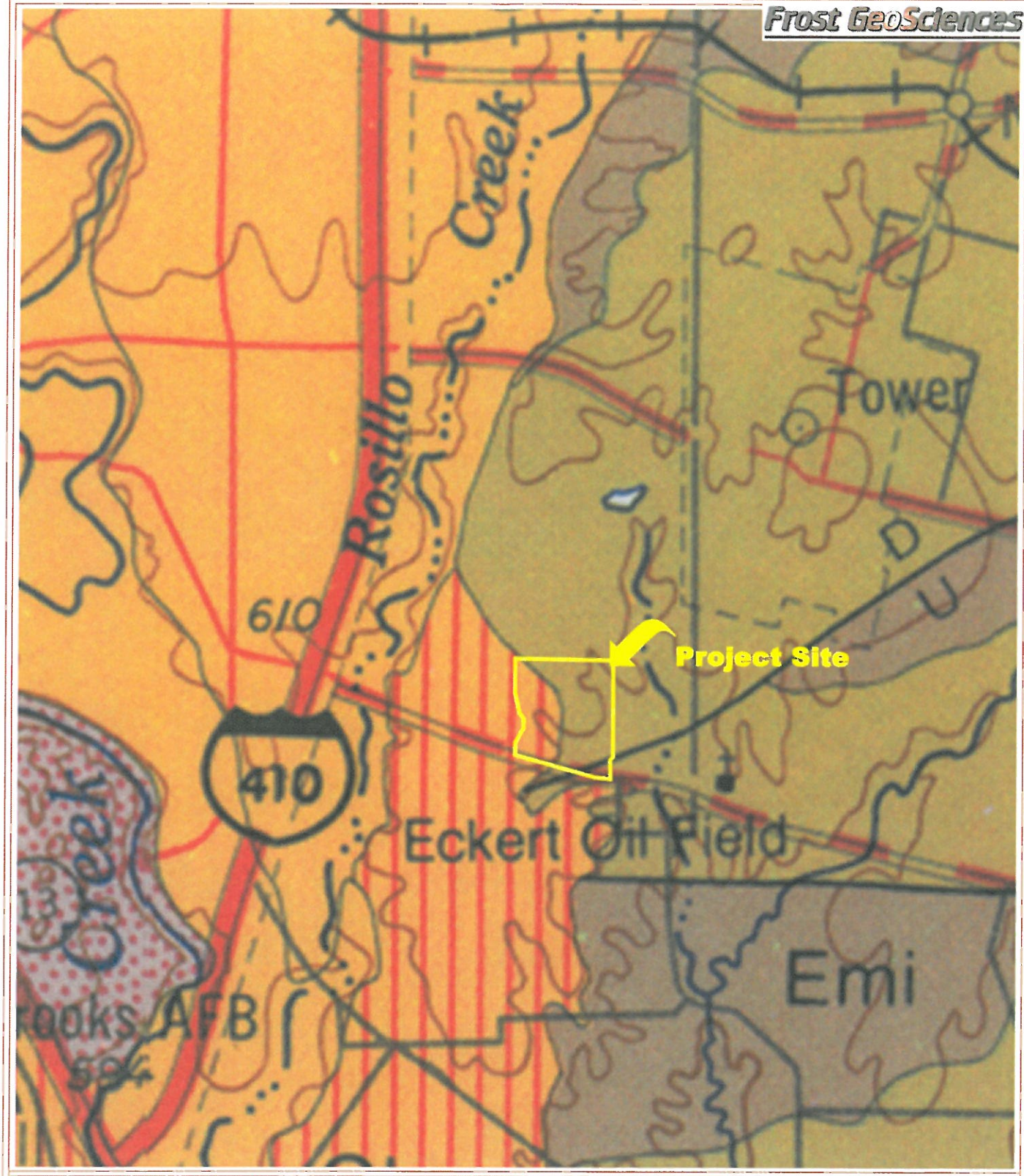


PROJECT NAME:

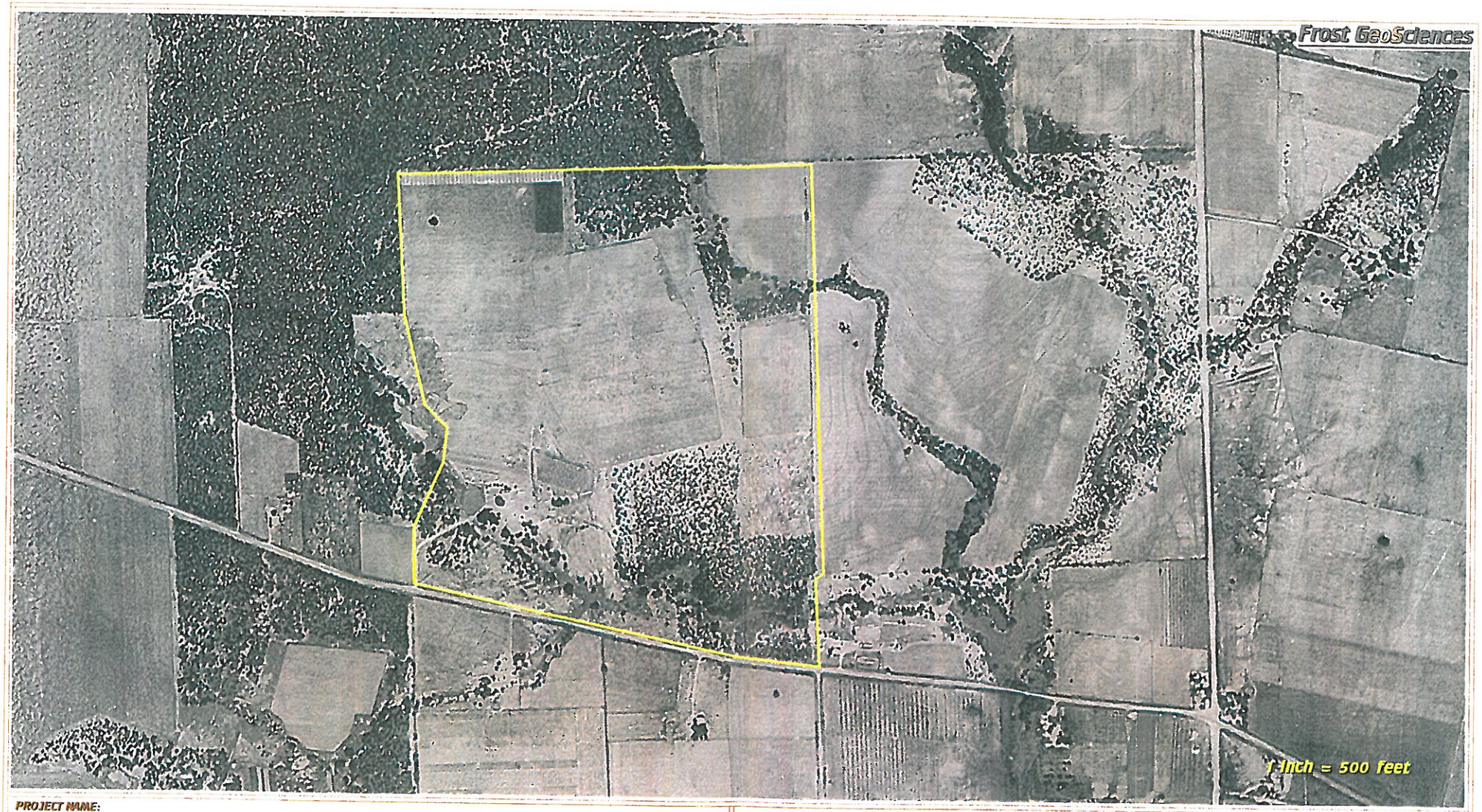
Archeological Survey
The New Sulphur Springs Road Tract
129 Acres
San Antonio, Texas

U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Map
Southton & Elmendorf, Texas Sheets (1992)

PROJECT NO.:	DATE:
FGS-05215	August 16, 2005



PROJECT NAME: Archeological Survey The New Sulphur Springs Road Tract 129 Acres San Antonio, Texas	Bureau of Economic Geology Geologic Atlas of Texas San Antonio Sheet (1982)
	PROJECT NO.: FGS-05252 / **DATE:** September 19, 2005



PROJECT NAME:

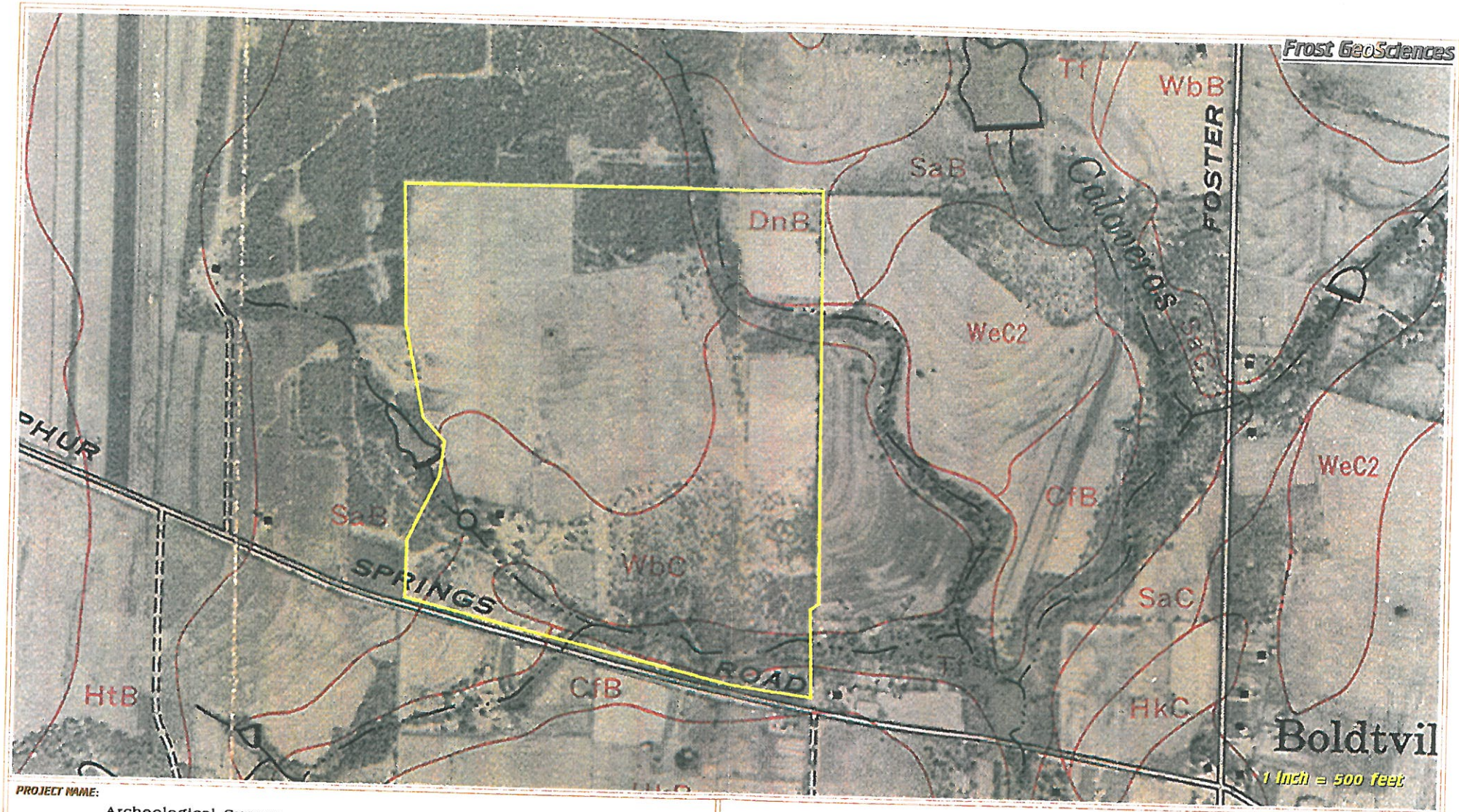
Archeological Survey
The New Sulphur Springs Road Tract
129 Acres
San Antonio, Texas

1938 Aerial Photograph
Agricultural Stabilization & Conservation Service

PROJECT NO.: FGS-05252

DATE: September 19, 2005

Geologic and Environmental Consulting



PROJECT NAME:

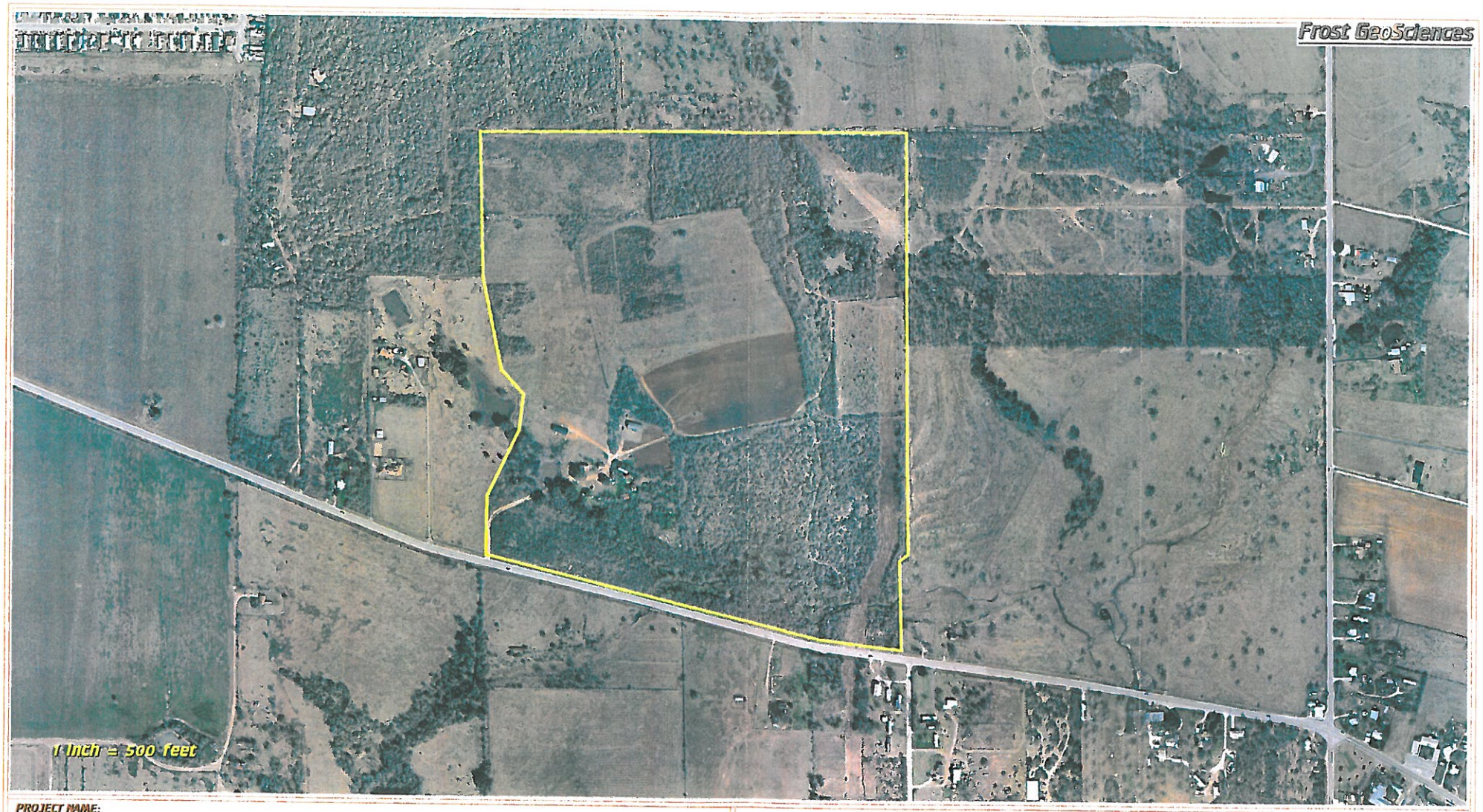
Archeological Survey
The New Sulphur Springs Road Tract
129 Acres
San Antonio, Texas

1962 Aerial Photograph
United States Department of Agriculture

PROJECT NO.: FGS-05252

DATE: September 19, 2005

Geologic and Environmental Consulting



PROJECT NAME:

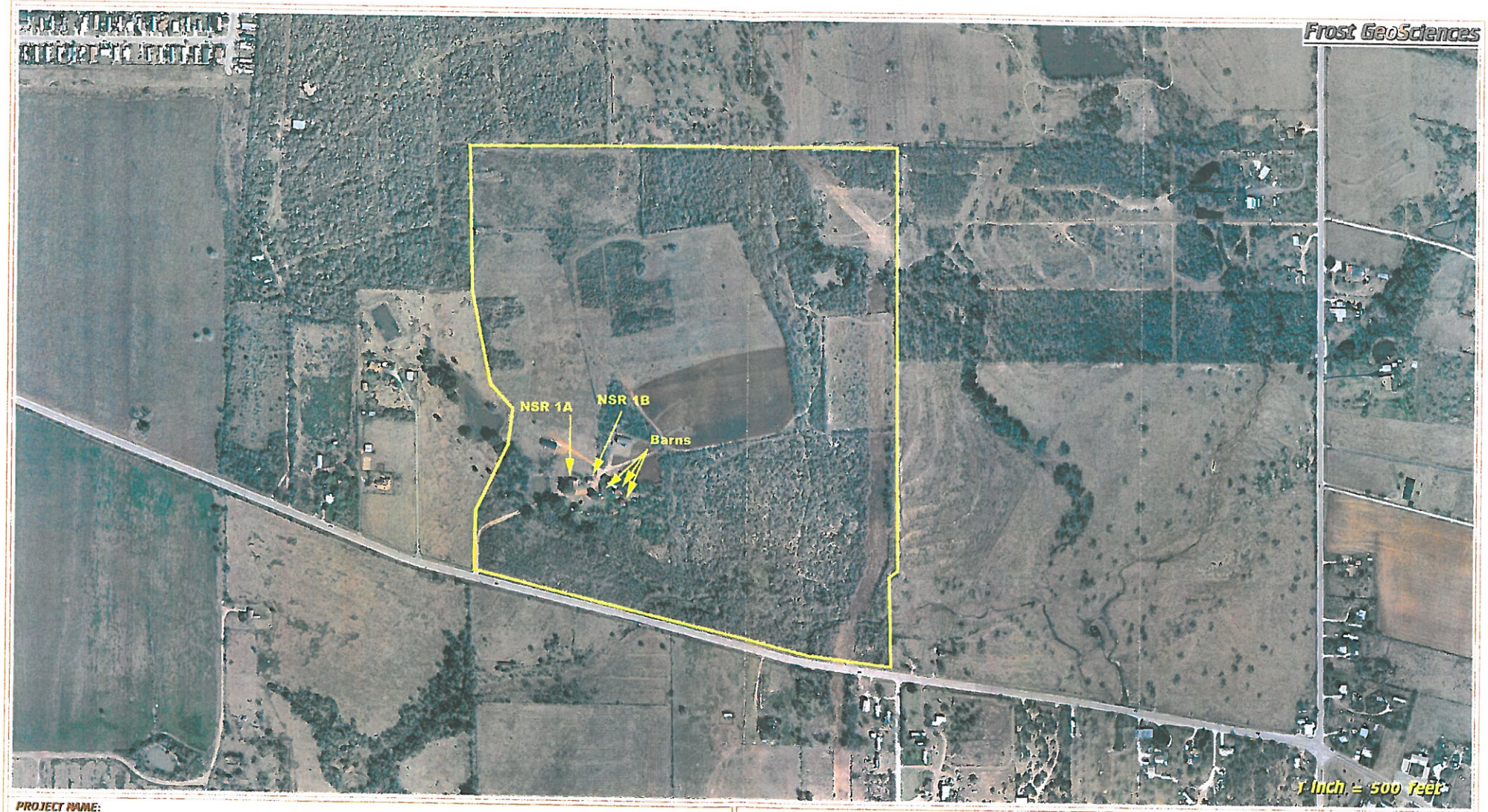
Archeological Survey
The New Sulphur Springs Road Tract
129 Acres
San Antonio, Texas

2003 Aerial Photograph
City of San Antonio

PROJECT NO.: FGS-05252

DATE: September 19, 2005

Geologic and Environmental Consultants



PROJECT NAME:

Archeological Survey
The New Sulphur Springs Road Tract
129 Acres
San Antonio, Texas

2003 Aerial Photograph
with Noted Areas

PROJECT NO.: FGS-05252

DATE: September 19, 2005

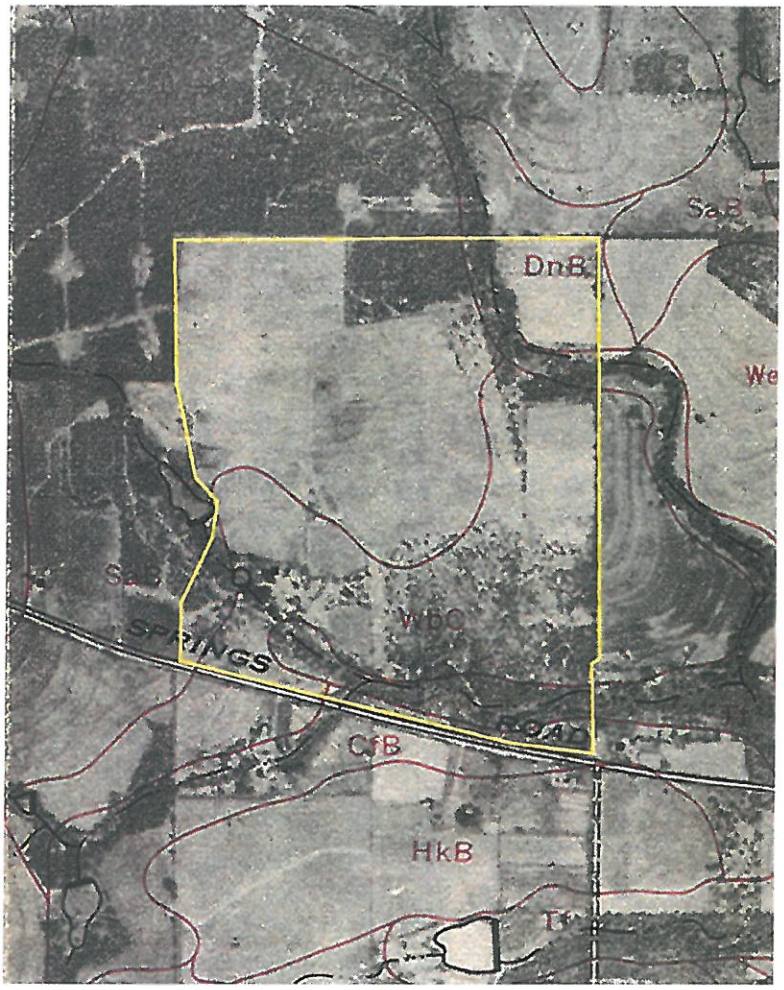


Figure 2. Soils map showing bo undaries of survey and soils within the 129 acre property.

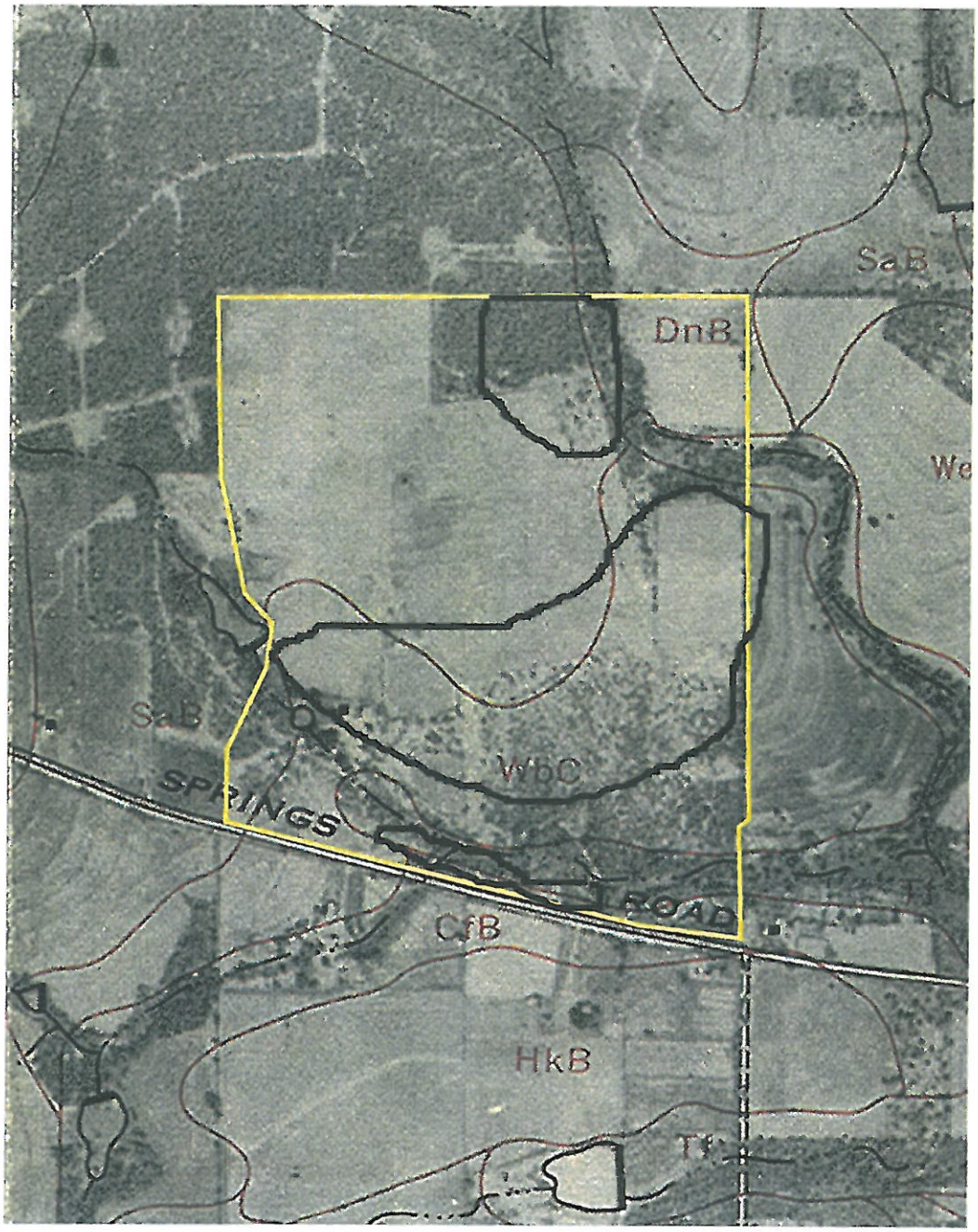


Figure 3. Soils map showing locations (outlined in black line) where tested Uvalde gravels were observed.

Figure 4. Two early stage bifaces of chert (left) and sandstone (right) illustrating prehistoric quarrying of local Uvalde gravels.

Figure 5. Front (south) view of structure NSR 1A.

Figure 6. Side view (west) of structure NSR 1A.

Figure 7. Front view of structure NSR 1b.

Figure 8. Oblique view (northwest) of structure NSR 1B.

Figure 9. View from the west of the barn associated with structures NSR 1a and NSR1b.

IMAGE RESTRICTED

APPROXIMATE LOCATIONS ONLY

PROPERTY BOUNDARY
TARL SITE LOCATION

TARL SITE LOCATION MAP
Southton, Elmendorf Quadrangle
Source: USGS (1992)

The New Sulphur Springs Road Tract
+/- 129 Acres
San Antonio, TX
Project #: FGS-05252

0' 1000' 2000' 3000'
SCALE: 1" = 2000'

GeoSearch
2705 Bee Caves Rd, Suite 330
Austin, Texas 78746
866-396-0042

JOB #: 48070 / DATE: 08/25/2005